

Hanway
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REPLY

TO

C-----A-----

Author of the Candid Remarks

ON

Mr. Hanway's Candid Historical Account

OF THE

FOUNDLING HOSPITAL,

With relation to

The probable Advantages of this Institution, if
confined to such Foundlings, Orphans, and Deserted
Children, within the Bills of Mortality, as were usu-
ally sent to Parish Workhouses and Parish Nurses.

LONDON:

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his Shop in the *Court of Requests*; and at the Pamphlet Shops
in *London* and *Westminster*.

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REPLY

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Author of the Candida

ON

Mr. Kennedy's Candida

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FOUND IN HOSPITAL

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The first edition of the book is
entirely new, and contains
all the latest information
on the subject of
the disease, and is
the only one of the kind
published in the
English language.

LONDON

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in the form of a paper cover.

1882



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REPLY to C. A. &c.

S I R,

THOUGH your sheet, entitled, *Remarks on Mr. Hanway's candid account of the Foundling-Hospital*, is dated the 16th of *January*, it did not reach my hands till the 9th of this month. If I am indebted to you for it, I beg you will accept my thanks. As I am intirely unacquainted with your *name, character, or place of abode*, I take this public method to reply, upon a subject which is very interesting to us all.

I observe that you have contracted a very strong prejudice against the institution of the Hospital, as if it could not be supported in any shape without being pernicious to the community; and you desire to propagate your opinion: in this I differ with you most essentially. We agree as to the probable effects of the *present plan*, as to its inefficacy to *promote industry, to encourage marriage*, or to guard the *morals* of the people. And whilst *town and country children*, those in danger, and

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those not in danger, were taken *indiscriminately*, it could not upon the whole *preserve lives*. In consideration of this *harmony in sentiments*, you are liberal in your commendations, and you bestow on me an epithet *as a writer*, which I am conscious I have no pretensions to: but when I speak of the *hospital*, as an institution which, under *proper regulations*, may be rendered very beneficial to the public, you conclude that my *judgment is warp'd*, and that I am obliged to "*load my fellow-subjects with whole volumes of reproach and obloquy, in order to furnish out a plausible argument, in favor of the foundling hospital.*"

Thus you exalt me as a *star*, and immediately, though you do not seem to intend it, you *extinguish my light* in a *kennel*. I hope, upon your *second thoughts*, you will rather conclude that I am *in search of truth*, and that my desire is to point out the danger, which the *infant poor of the parish workhouses within the bills of mortality* will be in, if such relief, as the *hospital* can afford, is not provided for them. You suppose you understand what belongs to the *public good*: may not I, who am a member of a corporation, originally calculated for a *general benefit*, see where the defect lies, and have the *public good* as much at heart, as if I were not a *member* of it? And may it not be supposed that I have studied the practical part of my subject, as well as the theory? But can any man that reads *your paper*, unless he has read *my candid account* also, forbear concluding that I have really written, at least, a *couple of volumes* against the conduct of *parochial officers*; whereas I say, page 84, "that it would take up
many

“ *many volumes to give an ample detail of the sufferings of the infant poor, for many years past, occasioned, as it is generally supposed, by the misconduct of parochial officers.*” Who the officers were, in times past, that took so little care of *children*, I know as little as of the black eunuchs, who are charged with the care of the *Grand Signior’s women*. The officers who did their duty to the children, certainly cannot be meant; and those who did it not, cannot complain. I mean only to *look forward*, and prevent such evils for the future; and I do all the officers the utmost justice I can, by the words that follow immediately after the observation, which, as you have rendered the matter doubtful, you should have quoted exactly in my words, *viz.* “ *We must, however, do justice to those in office when the hospital was opened*” (*viz. in 1756*) “ *by observing that they flocked in with their children, whence it is plain they wished to preserve them, if it could be done conveniently.*”

The tenor of my complaint is, that either through *avarice*, or for want of *skill*, or *time*, or *conveniences*, or *humanity*, or all these causes blended together, the death of *many hundred infants* annually, who might, in the natural course of things have lived, was connived at: and it is as plain, that I conceive this evil may be remedied in the *hospital* much more probably than in the *parish workhouses*, or by *parish nurses*.

You have seen that I am an *open enemy* to the separation of *parents* and *children*, where it can be prevented; but I am not the less a *friend* to the *preserving the lives of*

infants which are in danger, nor would I *neglect* such means as are the most apparently effectual to the end proposed. And if I am convinced that the *ordinary methods* used by parish officers are pregnant with *immediate destruction to the lives of infants*, would you accuse me of doing a *bad* thing, or a *foolish* one, for recommending what I know, by *experience*, can be done by the *hospital*?

Very few persons were satisfied with the *general plan* of the hospital; and there are many *unanswerable* reasons why it should be altered; but if it is left to take its fortune, and be carried no farther than the private benevolence of charitable persons will support it, I am persuaded it will fall very short of the good it is capable of.

My reasons for this opinion are these. It is well known, that *one tenth* of the whole people of *England* are congregated within the bills of mortality; and there is too much cause to believe, that a *very large share of the iniquity of the whole land* is included in this space. The mortal *disease* which the hospital was intended to remedy, was of so fatal and *extensive* a nature, that private donations, even in the meridian glory of this institution, were by no means adequate to the *cure*; so that what was done previous to the adoption of the hospital by the *public*, amounted to nothing in the *national* view. These *great cities* ought to be considered in a very different light from all other parts of the kingdom, being, with respect to the rest, what the *head* is to the *limbs*: and the calamities which befall them by the greater mortality of inhabitants, must necessarily affect the *whole*, in a much greater degree

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than if the *same degree* of mortality prevailed only in some of the *minuter* and less animated parts : but as it prevails *no where*, in near the same proportion, the expence of remedying the evil ought not to be considered as a *local charity*, but as a general relief to the nation. For if our grandeur and opulence, as a nation, are wounded in a vital part, by the mortality of the poorer inhabitants of the *metropolis*, it must necessarily create so much the greater drain from the *country*, whence the general supply arises ; and consequently this ought to be prevented as much as possible. And if the productions of the earth stand first in rank, we must have a view to the keeping a sufficient number of hands to be employed in agriculture, or the whole will languish and decay.

The question which arises upon the subject, is, by what *means* is this to be done, for as to the *end* we are all agreed ? We may amuse ourselves with the notion of advantages to arise from private beneficence, and the governors of the foundling hospital may, if they please, relieve some objects by means of it ; but I see no probability of its extending far enough to reach the disease we complain of : we must therefore give it *public aid*, by *parish assessments*, by the *public money*, or jointly by both. If this is not done, the good which can be reasonably expected hereafter, to so vast an object as the wretched part of the production of 700,000 inhabitants, will be so inconsiderable, that, with regard to the *future* reception of infants, we may as well convert the hospital into a *charnel-house* for *infants bones* : and I do most *seriously* believe, that a
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very large and a very curious collection may be made, in much less time than has been employed in picking up the curiosities at Montague-house.

In this light the thing appears to me ; but it is very hard to determine what turn it will take. There are some people who differ much, both with you and me, in regard to the object in general. If the hospital can be rendered instrumental to the saving the lives of infants, born of women in *secret distress*, there are doubtless some, who deserve great commiseration, if they can be distinguished, without shewing indulgence to those who have no title to favor. And as we must leave people to their freedom in point of conscience ; we must do the same in regard to their *private charity*.

You must be sensible, that whatever dark imaginations some persons may entertain of *child-killing, and mangling the bodies of slaughtered infants, &c.* the EVIL we complain of, has principally consisted in this ; that, for a great number of years, God knows how long ! the children of the numerous poor, within the *bills of mortality*, were suffered to die, in the hands of parish nurses, and in the workhouses ; in-somuch that the poor mother who did not “*wear in her breast a flint instead of a heart,*” when it became a question if she should send her child to the workhouse, used to answer, “*do you think I will send my child to a slaughter-house ?*” And some parish nurses, as I have told you, were denominated *killing-nurses*, in the common sense of the words, for no child ever came out of their hands alive.

I remember an anecdote which a friend of mine told me some years since. Meeting a boy, whom he knew to belong

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to a parish workhouse, with a viol in his hand ; he asked him what it contained. The boy answered, “ Sir, I have “ got some *Lord have mercy upon me.*” This excited my friend’s curiosity, and upon enquiry he found it to be *venice treacle*, which the nurses used to give, as a *sleeping potion*, to children, and when they found them lull’d to everlasting rest, they used to call to heaven for mercy, as well indeed they might, for such kind of murder, in that emphatical exclamation, *Lord have mercy upon me !* The frequency of the occasion for the repetition of these words, had actually given this cant name to the treacle in question.

Such stories are not sufficient to found public *resolutions* upon, but they are sufficient to induce those who are charged with the *public welfare*, to make exact enquiries : nor is there any reason, why the *present parish officers* should disguise the truth. It appears, that, notwithstanding this mortality, *many mothers* did part with their children, and *a vast number of infants*, deserted by various accidents, were committed to these *slaughter-houses* ; and, what is strange to tell, of a country professing *christianity*, and of a nation reputed *ingenious, polite, and humane*, these poor infants seem to have had no *advocate*, in those days, to plead their cause, upon the principles of humanity. Nor is it less wonderful for a *commercial people*, that *policy* did not stand up in their defence, notwithstanding such practices became an abomination, and *stunk* in our own nostrils. I hope we shall never fall back into such a state of barbarity of manners, as this practice may well induce after-times to impute to us ; and that the inhabitants of these great cities,

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whose *charity* and *politeness* are the *mirror of ages*, will not sully their renown by acts of *cruelty* to infants, at the very moment that they are so *illustrious* for their *mercy* to *adults* in every kind of distress.

Happy were it if the doors of the foundling hospital had been opened only to such poor infants as I have described; for in spite of innumerable difficulties, we find that the governors have saved the lives of 29 in 100, even to the age of 10 years. Thus upon seven years work, compared with *some* parishes, arises a saving of 203, against the odd 3; for actually, by some authentic accounts, upon 700 infants, only 3 were preserved. I do not pretend to say this was *general*, I believe it was not general in quite so great a degree; but the places whence the accounts were *not* *stocking*, I apprehend are so extremely few as not to merit much attention.

By a computation of lives preserved in the hospital, upon a medium of two years, supposing the number of distressed objects in the bills of mortality to be 2600 annually, * in *twenty years* operations, the increase will be 14300 persons of *ten* years old, and these will gain, by the time they are 35 years of age, above *two millions* sterling †. Such is the *importance of lives*, and such the *value of industry* in this *commercial* country.

* See my historical account, page 81. And though 2600 may appear as a large number, it is but $3\frac{1}{7}$ per 1000, on 700,000 souls.

† It appears to be about two millions and a half, but I will allow a deduction for contingencies.

It is true, that the liberty granted to parishes of assessing themselves, supposes that *no human creature* is suffered to perish for want of the *necessaries of life*: but the necessities of life to an *infant* are *pure air* and *mother's-milk*, neither of which being obtained in a *workhouse*, or of *parish nurses*, what must be the consequence? *The passage out of life is very broad, and the path is well trodden.* Let us confine our comparisons to *parishes* within the bills of mortality, and examine how the case stands. Besides the custom of leaving children to die, as if it were totally unavoidable, we shall find that the *hospital-pay*, in the hospital, where nurses are *boarded*, is twice as much in value as that of the parishes, where they are *not boarded*; and yet proper *London (a)* nurses are very scarce. If good nurses are chiefly employed in rearing the children of the *rich*, what can be expected for the *poor* parish infant? Nothing can save a few of them, but the accident of finding, amongst the least worthy of the human species, some choice spirits, whose knowledge and humanity will lead them to do that for conscience sake, which they have not been used to do for *money*. If it is true, that as the nurse was not usually discarded on account of a number of children dying in her hands, it may be presumed that it was *not offensive* that they should die.

It is an arduous affair, let us view it in what light we please; for if the mother abandons the child, and no other nurse in near the same situation is ready to *suckle* it,

(a) By *London*, I mean places within the bills of mortality.

there must needs be great danger of breaking the *tender strings of life*. If the parochial officers will send their children to breathe the pure air of the country, and take the same care of the *quality of nurses*, and provide as *good inspectors*, to pay and supervise them, as practised by the governors of the hospital, there can be no reason why as many of their children should not live; and every governor of the hospital would be glad to see this. But how such a number as an *hundred and forty seven parishes*, on one spot, are to bring this about, consistently with the situation of the major part of their parochial officers, is a difficulty which I cannot solve. It is therefore, that I presume we must soberly submit to a very heavy loss of lives, or make use of some other means; and my thoughts furnish me with no ideas of any practicable scheme, so proper as the support of an institution of humanity, which is already established under the sanction of a *royal charter*; and which being confined to its *proper objects*, will, to all appearance, be productive of the good intended.

It is not sufficient to object, that two essays have already been made, for it confessed that one was too *contracted*, the other upon too *extensive* a plan; the only *proper objects* were so blended with others, that whilst we were *building up* with one hand, we were obliged to *throw down* with the other. Extremes are dangerous: we went at once into the extreme, by receiving *all* children, knowing that many were distressed, and presuming that few or no *improper* objects would be brought.

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We still know, or have reason to believe, that many will be in distress; and yet you would have us go into the *other extreme*, and make no kind of provision at all. Thus an indiscriminate exclusion, by a sudden stroke, may do as much mischief, as the indiscriminate admission has done.

From having worked in the *dark*, and under the umbrage of *secrecy*, let us now *emerge into light*, and bestow our beneficence *above-board*, to those only that are in distress. Let us shew our kindness to those who are in danger of death, and apply the remedy where the disease *is*, and not where it *is not*. We cannot demonstrate by any mathematical rules, how the experiment will answer all the good ends in view; but surely it is more eligible to try experiments, by the instrumentality of those whom we know to be equal to a task, than by those who have no experience at all, and in the general view, have been either *unable* or *unwilling* to execute the business required of them.

Were we to drop the hospital entirely, and entrust the care of infants to those who are as little acquainted how to manage them, as they are innocent of former mismanagement; I fear it will cost the nation *many hundred lives*, at a time when lives are very valuable, if it does not leave a stain upon our humanity, which posterity will hardly be able to wipe off.

With respect to the present state of things, regarding the hospital and parishes; I believe it will be found, that for *near four years past*, very few *parochial officers* have intermeddled with the infant poor within the bills of

mortality; these having been generally sent by the parents, or acquaintance directly to the foundling hospital; and only the few born in the parish workhouse, during this period, or accidentally fallen into the hands of the parochial officers, have been sent thither at the parish expence.

Now, Sir, if there is any *candor* or *judgment* in my *candid historical account*; I do from the depths of my heart conceive that I am full as *candid* and *judicious*, in recommending the hospital as a relief to the infant poor, who *not being at their mothers breast*, are supposed to be the objects of the *parish workhouse*, or *parish nurse*, *within the bills of mortality*, as I am in my several objections to the present extended *secret plan* of the hospital, with all its imperfections. It is morally impossible to preserve infants in the hospital, so well as at the mother's breast, or so well as at the breast of another woman, in the several places in the country, where they were born; therefore, I presume, that many such country children, sent to the hospital, have been lost to the community; but with the same confidence, I think the infant poor born *within the bills of mortality*, have been *preserved* by means of the hospital.

Different periods, and different seasons, create a great alteration; but upon as *true a medium as I can discover*, with regard to such children as would otherwise have been committed to the care of workhouses, or parish nurses, I conceive the saving to be between 30 and 40 in 100. The hospital preserves 44 *per cent.* upon the same kind of estimate, as the general bills of mortality are made out, (56 in 100 dying there under two years of age) and perhaps it will
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be found that 40 in 44 are a saving to the community, so far as relates to the *infant poor*: for allowing some of the lesser parishes, before the year 1756, to have done their duty; I do not think, upon the aggregate sum of their saving, it will exceed 4 in 100: but if upon the whole it should come out to be 6 or 8, still the hospital, with regard to these objects, appears in splendor, and saves 30 to 40, which would be otherwise lost; and this is an object sufficient in itself to demand *public humanity, public care*, and if it is necessary, *public expence*.

You say well, that I have no certain *data* to go by: I have not indeed any general authentic account; but I have more reason to believe what is generally reported of the parishes, than I can consistently explain to you. Moreover *fame* would be an *abominable liar*, and the mass of the inhabitants of these great cities, accountable for the guilt of a most enormous load of *obloquy*, if this is not nearly the case.

Notwithstanding such a belief is so *general*, it is more than possible we may be mistaken in several *particulars*: for though mankind are so inordinately fond of *fame*, she often acts the part of a *common prostitute*. I make no doubt, but such an enquiry will be made as can be proceeded upon, as a *data*, as sure as the nature of the thing will admit. And I hope, Sir, that you and our fellow citizens, whatever their opinions may be, will comfort themselves in this reflexion; that as the foundling hospital, from 1741 to 1756, did much *too little*, and from 1756 to 1760, did a great deal *too much*, those whose
parental

parental care we have the utmost reason to confide in, will proceed with such caution, that, allowing for the nature of the case, they will not do *too little* nor *too much*. Perhaps the whole truth will not be unveil'd by any authority, but sufficient discoveries may be made to proceed upon; and I am perswaded, that the *value of lives*, compared with the *value of money*, will be maturely considered; and the DUTY OF PARISHES, as the *poors laws now stand*, will be properly examined into; and though these laws are so *ill adapted* to the end in view, till they can be *rectified*, I trust the whole of this important business will be weighed in the scales of *mercy*, as well as *justice*.

I also hope, that you will be so just to me, as not to suppose that I have any passion for the foundling hospital, or any other hospital, further than as I believe it may be rendered beneficial to the public. If my judgment or information should have led me astray, in recommending it for one object, whilst I object against it with regard to another, yet I shall not be the less *candid*. I must likewise beg leave to remind you, that, for the very reason that the character of no man is without a mixture of *weakness* and *folly*, and that few men are capable of adopting an opinion, without a degree of passionate attachment to it, you should be careful not to condemn with one breath, where your *opinion clashes*, those whom you extol with another, where your *opinion coincides*; lest you should leave yourself quite unguarded, and open to the imputation of

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of that kind of prejudice, which renders a man's writing of no value.

You are a patriot, and I am persuaded bent on no other design than to promote the public good: pray do not obstruct it by conjuring up imaginary evils in addition to the real ones. As to your apprehensions of *JUNCTOS* in the *foundling hospital*, upon my word, Sir, I believe you are *extremely misinformed*. The government of the hospital partakes most of the nature of a commonwealth, as all such societies should; nor can this be deemed any solecism, in the great view of government. If, agreeably to the genius of the nation, such institutions should have a mixture of *monarchical* power, it is easily controlled; for if men want *spirit*, they seldom serve at all; and if they do *not* want it, so long as they serve *voluntarily*, and unawed by any fear, they *will be free*. Indeed, Sir, the hospital has preserved the freedom of its constitution; and no community can be more chaste in their administration, whether with respect to the use of their *charter granted by the king*, or with regard to their *subordination to parliament*, as intrusted with *public money*, or to the *public in general* for private *benefactions*.—If all the governors are not of the same opinion in every point, the difference is about the *means of preserving children*, for they have but *one common end in view*, and are all perfectly zealous in the cause of the *poor infant*.

With respect to the parish officers, though I have supposed, for it is but *supposition*, what some of them will urge in their own favor, not to be charged with the *whole*
expence

expence of taking care of *all the orphans, foundlings, or deserted children*, which may fall as a charge on their respective parishes, yet I do not pretend to say, what proportion of the *expence* they ought to pay; nor determine whether they can bear the *whole*, either for one year, or as an accumulating *expence* for any limited time. I wish to see the *expence* rendered such, that *avarice* may not occasion our being deprived of lives, the value of which can be only judged of by the fatal consequences of that deprivation. As to there being *junctos* amongst these officers, to carry a point, as you mention, I have not *seen* nor *heard* of any, nor do I *understand* there is any such thing: on the contrary, they seem to be very quiet on the subject; so that you seem to accuse them of a *great fault*, of which they are innocent; and whilst you mean to give them a very important charge, you have created an *imaginary block to stumble over*, which is a strong reason, if it were *real*, why they should not be entrusted with such charge.

I was persuaded, that the hospital, upon the general plan, was a monster that would prey upon us; and therefore would be shut up soon: and I was equally of opinion, that the *consideration of the poor's laws*, would take up *two or three years* to digest; and perhaps as long a time to carry into *effectual execution*, upon the new plan meditated: therefore I considered, that it would be indispensibly necessary to make some provision for *infants, usually brought to parish workhouses, within the bills of mortality*. I have pointed out several reasons, why I think it is hardly in the nature of things, that the *parochial officers*, in gene-

ral, can perform the task so well as the *governors of the foundling hospital*: if, notwithstanding my reasons, and many more that might be urged, you are satisfied that the persons now in the parochial offices, both *can* and *will* execute it, as *well* or *better* than the governors; I apprehend you will say more for them, than they *will* or *can* honestly say for themselves, or than the generality of our fellow subjects will *believe*, if they do say it.

I argue from experience, in my own person; and from the strongest conviction with regard to the past conduct of others.—If the *self-interest* and *avarice*, which you vindicate as *necessary evils*, have formerly been some of the chief causes of the *parishes* neglecting the *poor*, these principles must be *pernicious*, not *beneficial*, as you intimate; and they ought to be *checked*, not *countenanced*. I humbly conceive that the *evil* apprehended may be remedied, without introducing another and *greater evil*; for it does not follow, that if the hospital preserves the poor infants, who *were* usually considered as the proper objects of the care of parishes, therefore, the *parochial officer* will receive such infants, as *are not* the proper objects of such care: this will be guarded against, by that necessary caution, which will arise from the portion of expence which the parish must bear: and if *difficulties* should sometimes happen, in relation to the necessary *protection* due to an infant, and the *carelessness* and *iniquity* of the parent of such infant, though we should take all advantages which the laws

will allow, or make a new law to punish wicked parents, we cannot withhold the succor on which the *life of the infant* depends.

As to the *Magdalen-House*, you might better have left it quite out of the question. It is generally computed, that there are 3000 common prostitutes in these cities; if 5 in 100 of them are inclined to repent of their sins, the governors of this pious institution save their bodies, and it may be hoped they are instrumental in saving their souls also from perdition: and the foundling hospital can make no material difference, whether it *exists* or not.

This is what occurs to my thoughts at present, which I think *proper* to communicate. I hope the *legislators* will do that which is for the best; and I had rather find myself *mistaken*, and confess the *fallibility* of my own judgment, than see any thing done, agreeably to it, which shall afterwards appear to be *ill done*.—It has been remarked by some able philosophers, that when unforeseen evils happen, *novices* in the study of the human heart, who mean well, are apt to condemn *themselves*: men who are worldly-minded, condemn *others*; but those who have made a proficiency in this study, neither condemn themselves, nor others.

I am,

S I R,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. H.

Strand, Feb. 11, 1760.

P. S.

P. S. It has been a question, if all the infants formerly received by the *parish* officers have been accepted on the *parish* account, as *paupers*, it being supposed, that there have been some contracts for children's maintenance of a private nature.

If a man belonging to the parish, for we must suppose others out of the question, has a child, which he is unable to maintain, and cannot find security for the maintenance, the officer may sometimes commute for a sum of money: suppose *ten pounds*; this is carried to the *credit* of the parish, as the charge of maintenance is carried to the debit. If it were not so, it must be supposed, that *no child* upon a *medium*, will exceed the age of *15 months*, for at *two shillings and sixpence a week*, including *apparel*; the *ten pounds* would be expended in this time, and who would bear the charge afterwards? Many thousand infants have never reached this period; but as the parish officer cannot intend absolutely that they *shall die in 15 months*, it can hardly be imagined that he would run the risk of keeping it himself. Suppose a child, all contingencies included, to stand in *8l.* a year; in *10 years* it is *80l.* whereas the officer would receive but *80l.* with *8 children*; consequently if he reared only *1*, in *12*, allowing *11* to live only *6 months*, he would be *4l.* out of pocket.

There may have been cases, I fear, where money has been accepted in a *private* manner by the *parish* nurses, who being charged with the care of parish children, have negotiated in another manner. The parish child being
dead,

dead, has been secretly buried, and the other child, taken with money, put in the place: if it *lives*, it becomes a *parish child* by the same name, and the parish supports it; if it *dies*, the nurse gains so much as she has received. You may perceive, that in this kind of negotiation, it is required to conceal the death from the parish officer, who though he is not supposed to distinguish one child from another, he cannot be tricked every day, in this manner. But if she cannot elude the vigilance of the officer, she may take the child *by the lump*, for the ten pounds, or a *smaller sum*, at her own risk, *as many have been*. In these cases the child appears to be sentenced to death from the moment it is received, and the sooner it dies, the more she gains; *live* it must not, for there is nothing to support it. These kind of bargains appear to be a *confederacy to murder*, and ought to be deemed *capital offences*. The party giving the money, and the party receiving it, seem liable to a prosecution; or if the law is defective, should not some provision be made to prevent a practice of so infamous a nature? It may be hoped that the relief proposed by the *hospital*, with regard to the infant poor of parishes, may enable the parish officer, in some measure, to prevent such abuses, as there may be so much less no occasion for any parish nurses.

You have seen that I am very clearly of opinion, that the nation groan'd under a grievous calamity for a long time before the opening of the FOUNDLING HOSPITAL. *The abuses within the bills of mortality, AND NOT IN THE COUNTRY,*

COUNTRY, were great, very great indeed ! therefore it behoves us to be extremely watchful not to fall into the like distress again, *the general extensive plan being now out of the question.*

Tho' it may be productive of some inconveniences to *oblige* all parishes, *within the bills of mortality*, without distinction, to send their infant poor to the hospital ; all such as do not send them may be obliged to give an exact annual account to the public, of the date of reception, age, and date of the death of each child they receive. Thus it will be known what their mortality is, compared with that of the *foundling hospital* : and thus both *hospital* and parishes may be a check on each other ; and the parishes which *can* preserve their children, and *chuse* to keep them, may be left to pursue the best methods : and those which *cannot*, or *do not chuse* it, may be at their liberty, and the children in both cases have as *fair-play* as possible.

F I N I S.

